

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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P R 141500Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8527

INFO USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 AMMAN 3706

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PGOV JO

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIES OF NEW JORDANIAN CABINET AND
PALACE OFFICIALS

REF: AMMAN 3705

1. KING HUSSEIN JULY 13 ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENT OF
NEW PRIME MINISTER MUDHAR BADRAN AND THREE NEW
PALACE OFFICIALS. BADRAN'S FIRST CABINET CONTAINES
SEVEN NEW FACES. FOUR PSOTIONS HAVE BEEN COM
BINED IN SUCH A WAY THAT TWO MINISTERS ARE NOW
HOLDING TWO CABINET PORTFOLIOS EACH (AGRICULTURE-
SUPPLY, AND DEVELOPMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION MINISTER
OF STAE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS) CABINET HAS 14 AST
BANKERS, 4 PALESTINIANS (ONE FROM GAZA) ONE
CHRISTIAN AND NO CIRCASSIANS OR OTHER MINORITIES
(RATIO SIMILAR TO PREVIOUS CABINET) NEW PALACE
APPOINTEES ARE EAST BANKERS. TRIBAL BALANCE HAS
BEEN PRESERVED. OFFICIALS AND LIST AND BIOS
WHERE APPROPRIATE FOLLIW IN JORDANIAN PROTOCOL ORDER

A. CABINET

(1) MUDHAR BADRAN TRANSFERRED FROM CHIEF
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OF ROYAL COURT TO PRIME MINISTER BORN IN JARASH

IN 1934 FATHERS FAMILY ORIGINALLY FROM NABULUS
AND FOR THIS REASON BADRAN NOT CONSIDERED BY SOME
JORDANIANS TO HAVE COMPLETE "EAST BANK CREDENTIALS".
BA DEGREE IN LAW FROM DAMASCUS UNIVERSITY 1957
ENTERED ARMY AS LEGAL ADVISOR IN 1957 AND WAS
RAPIDLY PROMOTED BECAME DIRECTOR OF GID WITH
RANK OF MAJOR GENERAL IN MAY 1968 EVEN AS GID
HEAD DURING PRE CIVIL WAR TENSION IN JORDAN WAS
SAID TO HAVE MAINTAINED GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS
WITH PALESTINIANS IN AUGUST 1970 WAS TRANSFERRED
TO POST OF CHAMBERLAIN AT ROYAL COURT IN 1971 PROMOTED
TO NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR TO KING HUSSEIN
WITH RANK AND SALARY AS MINISTER. IN OCTOBER 1972
WAS CHOSEN MEMBER OF HIGHER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF NOW DEFUNCT ARAB NATIONAL UNION JORDAN'S ONLY
OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED POLITICAL PARTY (POST HELD CONCURRENTLY
WITH PALACE DUTIES) IN MAY 1973 APPOINTED
MINISTER OF EDUCATION BECAME CHIEF OF ROYAL COURT
IN NOVEMBER 1974. BADRAN DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE
MUCH INTEREST IN OR KNOWLEDGE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
ALTHOUGH HE HAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS ACTED AS HIGH
LEVEL MESSENGER OF KING TO SAUDI ARABIA. HE IS
POLITICALLY CONSERVATIVE CONSISTENTLY OPPOSING FOR
EXAMPLE ESTABLISHMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM IN
JORDAN. HE IS OPEN TO WESTERNERS AND IS FRIENDLY
BUT APPEARS SOMEWHAT SECRETARIAL POSSIBLY BECAUSE OF
HIS LIMITED ENGLISH. HE IS NOT WELL KNOWN TO MOST
JORDANIANS MARRIED THREE CHILDREN

(2) ZUQAN AL HINDAWI, MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(NO CHANGE--EAST BANKER) WITH COMBINING OF MIN OF
DEVELOPMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION WITH POSITION OF
MIN STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MIN EDUCATION IS
NOW SECOND IN PROTOCOL ORDER. INCUMBENT BECOMES
ACTING PRIME MINISTER DURING PM'S ABSENCE FROM
COUNTRY

(3) ADNAN ABU OWDEH (OR ODEH AWDEH)
MINISTER OF CULTURE AND INFORMATION--PALESTINIAN
BORN NABULUS 1933 BA FROM SYRIAN UNIVERSITY 1975 WAS
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TEACHER IN KUWAIT BEFORE JOINING ARMY 1966 SERVED
AS INTELLIGENCE OFFICER MINISTER OF INFORMATION
1970-73 POLITICAL ADVISOR TO KING HUSSEIN 1973
SECRETARY GENERAL OF NOW DEFUNCT ARAB NATIONAL UNION
1973-74/75 IV PARTICIPANT 1976-75 HARVARD CENTER
OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FELLOW. ABU OWDEH IS
BRIGHT AND ARTICULATE WAS EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE
MIN INFO. HE IS MODERATE AND WELL DISPOSED TO

AMERICANS MARRIED.

(4) DR MOHAMMED AL BASHIR MINISTER OF
HEALTH EAST BANKER BORN 1925 IN SALT . MD DEGREE
FROM DAMASCUS UNIVERSITY 19752 DIPLOMA IN LEGAL
MEDCINE EIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY 1968 ADMIN DIRECTOR
OF MIN HEALTH 1968-70 MINISTER OF STATE FOR PRIME
MINISTRY AFFAIRS 1970 MINISTER OF HEALTH ARLY 70'S
CONTROVERSIAL AND WEAK CHIEF OF AMMAN HOSPITAL
MARRIED WITH SIX CHILDREN

(5) SALEM MASADEH MINISTER OF FINANCE
(NO CHANGE) EAST BANKER

(6) GHALEB BARAKAT, MINISTER OF TOURISM AND
ANTIQUITIES (NO CHANGE) -PALESTINIAN.

(7) AHMAD SHOBAKI MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKDS
(NO CHANGE) EAST BANKER

(8) ABMAD ABDUL KARIM AT TARAWNEH MINISTER
OF JUSTICE (NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH AHMAD MAHMOUND
TARAWNEH FORMER OF ROYAL COURT) EAST BANKER
FROM KERAK BORN 1931 LAW DGREE FROM UNIVERSITY
OF IARQ 1954 ENTERED MIN JUSTICE 1954 AND HAS SPENT
VIRTUALLY ENTIRE CAREER THERE IN SERIES OF STEADY
PROMOTIONS CHIEF OF AMMAN CENTRAL
COURT (1965-72) UNDERSEC MIN OF JSTICE (72-73)
MINISTER OF INTERIR 73-74.

(9) MARWAN AL HMOUD MINISTER OF INTERIOR
FOR MUNICIPAL AND RURAL AFFAIRS (WAS MINISTER OF
AGRICULTURE) EAST BANKER
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10. MAHMOUD AL HAWAMDEH MINISTER OF
TRANSPORT (NO CHANGE) EAST BANKER

11. DR RAJA-I AL MOASHAR MINISTER OF
INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE (NO CHANGE) EAST BANK
CHRISTIAN

12. SALAH JUMA MINISTER AGRICULTURE AND
MINISTER OF SUPPLY (FORMERLY MINISTER OF SUPPLY)
EAST BANKER

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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P R 141500Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8528

INFO /USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 AMMAN 3706

(13) HASAN IBRAHIM MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT
AND RECONSTRUCTION (HANDLES PALESTINIAN REFUGEES)
AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
-PALESTINIAN

(14) ISAM AL AJLOUNI MINISTER OF LABOR
(NO CHANGE) EAST BANKER

(15) KAMEL ASH SHARIF MINISTER OF AWQAF AND
ISALMIC AFFAIRS WEST BANKR BORN IN GAZA 1923
FORMER MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD MEMBER JORDANIANS AMBASSADOR
TO NIGERIA 61-66 WHERE WORKED TO STRENGTHEN MUSLIM
AFRICAN TIES WORKED IN MINISTRY OF INFO 66-67
BIEFLY AMBASSADOR TO BOON 67 AMBASSADOR
TO REP OF CHINA 67 EARLY 70'S WAS CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF
AD DUSTOUR NEWSPAPER AND "ROVING AMBASSADOR" WHEN
APPOINTED TO PRESENT POST. HAS RECENTLY BEEN IN
PUBLIC EYE TRAVELING TO VARIOUS ISLAMIC COUNTRIES
WITH CHIEF QADI COLLECTING CONTRIBUTIONS FOR
REPAIRING AL AQSA MOSQUE. MARRIED

(16) MAWAN AL WASEM MINISTER OF STATE FOR
PRIME MINISTRY AFFAIRS-EAST BANKER BORN 1937
FARTHER WAS CLOSE ADVSOR TO KING ABDULLAH. US
EDUCATED EAST MICHIGAN STATE AND COLUMBIA SERVED
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IN JORDAN EMBASSIES IN US AND LEBANON SECRETARY
TO CROWN PRINCE 72-75 SEC GEN OF ROYAL PALACE
1975 PRESENT. HAS PERFORMED SPECIAL MISSIONS FOR
KING TO GULF STATES AND HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA ON AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM AND CHARGED WITH MAKING STAFF STUDIES ON CONSEQUENCES OF GOING TO SOVIETS. WIFE IS AMERICAN, TWO CHILDREN

(17) SUEMAN ARAR MINISTER OF INTERIOR
EAST BANKER BORN MAAN 1934, BA FROM CAIRO UNIVERSITY
61 SERVED IN SUCCESSION OF FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS IN
SAUDI ARABIA, ALGERI, AND MOROCCO (61-71) BRIEFLY
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARAB NATIONAL UNION 71-72
JOINED AR RAAY NEWSPAPER IN 72 BECAME EDITOR IN CHIEF
SAME YEAR IS ALSO ONE OF FOUR CO OWNERS OF
PAPER ELECTED HEAD OF JORDANIANS JOURNALISTS
SYNDICATE 75 MARRIED

18. ABD AR RAOUF RAWABDEH MINISTER OF
COMMUNICATIONS-EAST BANKER BORN IN SARIF 1936
BS IN PHARMACOLOGY FROM AUG 62 HAS SPENT
VIRTUALLY ENTIRE CAREER IN PHARMACIES SECTION OF
MINISTRY OF HEALTH WAS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
OF NEW YARMOUK UNIVERSITY WHEN APPOINTED
MINCOMMUNICATIONS MARRIED

B. NEW PALACE OFFICIALS

(1) SHARIF ABD AL HAMID SHARAFH CHIEF OF
ROYAL DIWAN EAST BANKER THIRTY SIX YEARS OLD
SHARAF COUSIN OF KING HUSSEIN IS HIGHLY RESPECTED
IN AMMAN FOR HIS INTELLIGENCE HARDWORK AND EFFECTIVENESS
IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AS JORDANS UN PERMREP SINCE 1972
AND ITS AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON FOR THE PREVIOUS FIVE
YEARS HE KNOWS US AS WELL AS ANY SENIOR OFFICIAL OF
ANY ARAB COUNTRY. ALTHOUGH GENERALLY CONSIDERED PRO
WEST IN GLOBAL TERMS MODERATE AND PRAGMATIC IN HIS
APPROACH TO HIS DIPLOMATIC RESPONSIBILITIES AND FULLY
ACCESSIBLE TO US SHARIF HAS NOT HESITATED TO CRITICISE
PUBLICLY WESTERN POLICY ON MIDDLE EAST ISSUES. HE IS
MUCH MORE MILITANT AMONG OTHER ARABS THAN IN THE PAST
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OF US OFFICIALS INDICATING TRACES OF STRINGENT
NATIONALISM DEVELOPED DURING STUDENT DAYS AT THE
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT WHERE HE WAS MEMBER OF
ARAB NATIONALIST MOVEMENT. BEFORE BECOMING AMBASSADOR
TO THE US SHARAF HELD A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT POSTS

CULMINATING IN MINISTER OF INFORMATION IN 1965. WHILE HIS ORIGINS WILL ADD TO EAST BANK CREDENTIALS OF KINGS NEWEST ADVISERS SHARAF IS COSMOPOLITCAN IN EXPERIENCE AND OUTLOOK. HE CAN BE EXPECTED TO TRY TO PLAY LEADING ROLE IN JORDANS FOREIGN POLICY, AND MOVES BY THIS APPOINTEMENT CONSIDERABLY CLOSER IN LINE TO PRIME MINISTERSHIP TO WHICH HE ASPIRES.

(2) AMER KHAMASH MINISTER OF COURT. EAST BANKER BORN ABOUT 1924 IN SALT MOST OF LIFE SPENT IN MILITARY STUDIES AT US COMMAND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE 1958 DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION JAA CHIEF OF STAFF 65-69 MINISTER OF DEFENSE 69 FOLLOW TWO YEAR RETIREMENT SERVES AS ROYAL COUNSELOR FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS 72-74 SENATOR 74 TO PRESENT KAHMMASH WAS LONG CONSIDERED KING HUSEINS NUMBER ONE PURCHASING NEGOTIATOR AND REMAINS HIGHLY VALUED FOR HIS NEGOTIATING SKILL. AS ROYAL COUNSELOR FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS HE CONCENTRATED CHIEFLY ON STRENGTHENING JORDANIANS RELATIONS WITH IRAN SAUDI ARABIA AND ARAB GULD STATES. KHAMMASH IS WIDELY BELIEVES TO HAVE PROFITED PERSONALLY FROM VARIOUS US MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. HE IS WELL DISPOSED TO AMERICANS

(3) SALAH ABU ZAYD PRESS COUNSELOR TO KING HUSSEIN (POSITION NEWLY CREATED) FORMER MINISTER OF INFORMATION, DEPARTMENT HAS CURENT BIO INFO. PICKERING

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